

Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Virtual Meeting of Bingham Town Council  
held on Tuesday 18 August 2020 at 7:15pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: J Stockwood, M Stockwood, F Purdue-Horan, A Shelton, W Stapleton, P Moskwa, G Williams, V Leach, T Wallace, R Bird, G Simms, M Monni, J Best and J Lewis.

Officers: S Pyke (Town Clerk)

Public: 12

**1. APOLOGIES**

Councillor Best would be attending but had been delayed. Councillor Best joined the meeting via phone at 8:22pm. All Councillors were present.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in item 4, Wynhill Community Centre Facilities as he is a coach at Bingham Rugby Club. Councillor Williams would speak on the matter but abstain from voting.

Councillor Wallace proposed that the order of business was changed to bring forward item 10, Staff Matter under Confidential Business forward into the open session for the reasons of accountability and openness. The Clerk was asked why this item was under Confidential Business. The Clerk replied that the agenda was released before the appendix supporting this agenda item was made available. Having reviewed the appendix, it does not relate to engagement, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees so does not fall with the remit of confidential business.

A vote was taken, Councillor Wallace's proposal was defeated.

**3. PUBLIC SESSION**

Queries were raised in relation to:

The staff review and comments around bullying and poor conduct contained within it. The staff restructure and the potential risk of employee tribunals and that any costs would be met by Bingham residents.

A thank you for Councillors support for the recent events on the Market Place through August and for two staff members who helped.

Block voting and queries regarding why people vote the way they do.

The lake on the Barratts/David Wilson site and why Bingham Town Council supported the downgrading of the lake and when it would be completed.

A request for an apology for comments at a previous meeting, HR costs and why the staff consultation results could not be shared with the public.

The Mayor responded:

That a reply in relation to the staff review could not be given due to the document being confidential. Financial pressures on the Council being the reason for a review of the staff structure and what was needed to deliver the projects over the next 3 years.

The lake was being built to the specification of the granted planning application which Bingham Town Council were statutory consultees on and that an update had been received that the works to re-open the facility was expected in 6-8 weeks. The projects over the coming years were confirmed as replacement of another two play areas, investment into sports facilities, working with the Friends of Bingham Linear park of their 5 year Biodiversity Plan, the building of a long stay car park on the old allotment site for improvement of the town and train station parking and the renewal of the town centre CCTV.

#### **4. WYNHILL COMMUNITY FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS**

Councillor Best joined the meeting at 8:22pm.

Councillors expressed their frustration that the original decision from the extra-ordinary meeting of 24 September 2019 to access funding from the Community Chest was no longer available and that a subsequent resolution had been made to enable the Council to apply to the Public Works Loan Board instead for funding.

- a) Business case for improvements  
This report was **NOTED** by Council
- b) Results of the public consultation  
Councillor Williams revealed the results of the public consultation, 340 responses from Bingham residents were received which equates to just less than 4% of the population. 67% were in favour with 33% against. Of the 340 responses, 175 submitted comments, 109 comments from those in favour and 58 comments from those against.  
The results of the public consultation were **NOTED** by Council
- c) Agreement to work on the financial, legal and operational arrangements with the Rugby Club  
It was **RESOLVED**: to continue working with the Rugby Club to secure and satisfy good governance between the 2 organisations.
- d) Budget and reserves for the year ending 31 March 2021  
The budget and reserves were **NOTED** by Council
- e) Loan repayment amendments to the 3-year reserve summary budget to 31 March 2023  
The 3 year reserve summary budget was **NOTED** by Council
- f) Seek approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £400,000  
It was **RESOLVED**: to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £400,000 over the borrowing term of 30 years for the Wynhill Community Facilities Improvements. The annual loan repayments will come to around £19,126.64. It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 6.4% which is the

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equivalent of an additional £5.30 a year based upon current figures but will not apply until 01 April 2023. This has been subject to a precept increase consultation.

The above items were voted on individually at the end of the agenda item but have been recorded against the separate considerations.

## **5. WYNHILL PITCH MAINTENANCE AND DRAINAGE**

Standing Orders were suspended at 8:35pm and reinstated at 8:42pm to allow a member of Bingham Rugby Club to speak to this item.

Following a pitch inspection by the Rugby Football Union in support of a grant funding application for improving the rugby facilities at Wynhill and an independent inspection of the drains. The following recommendations had been put forward:

- To increase the frequency of mowing to weekly, applications of sand, seed and fertiliser and to aerate to improve the quality of the pitches. The Rugby Club may look to purchase a chain harrow to assist with this.
- The land drain across the pitch is in need of remedial work. A quote of £8,000 has been received, other contractors will be contacted. The Rugby Club are considering applying to Severn Trent Water's Community Funding for assistance but may require additional help.

In the immediate term the next actions are with the Rugby Club but will provide more details for the next Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting. The frequency of mowing will be discussed with the grounds staff.

## **6. MOWER**

It was **RESOLVED**: to proceed with hiring a Ransome HR300 ride-on mower with a Trimax 155 Flail deck for 4 weeks at £250.00 per week + VAT.

## **7. INSURANCE**

It was **RESOLVED**: to proceed with a 5 year long term agreement with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £3,239.01.

And

It was **RESOLVED**: that the 1<sup>st</sup> year premium be paid.

## **8. BINGHAM HELPING HANDS GRANT AWARD**

It was **NOTED** that the £5,000 grant award was being held temporarily by the Town Council under a dedicated budget code.

## **9. ASSET**

- a) Writing off the trailer from the asset register

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It was **RESOLVED**: to write the trailer from the asset register

b) Sale of the trailer – The Council **NOTED** the sale of the trailer for £175

**10. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960  
PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEXT BUSINESS, THE FOLLOWING  
RESOLUTION WAS PROPOSED, SECONDED AND CARRIED:

“That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw”

- Staff Matter

**RESOLVED**: Accept the report recommendations on the staffing matter

A recorded vote was requested

Proposed: Cllr. Purdue-Horan, Seconded: Cllr. J. Stockwood

For: Cllr. Best, Cllr. Monni, Cllr. Moskwa, Cllr. Purdue-Horan, Cllr. Shelton, Cllr. Stapleton, Cllr. J. Stockwood, Cllr. M. Stockwood

Against: Cllr. Bird, Cllr. Leach, Cllr. Lewis, Cllr. Simms, Cllr. Wallace

Abstain: Cllr. Williams

Public Meeting closed 8.53pm, Confidential Meeting ended at 9.43pm.

.....CHAIRMAN

Date: .....